

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6501
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 0935

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CD
SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT # 6

SUMMARY: WHILE THE PRELIMINARIES FOR THE MARCH 21
NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE CHADIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE
REBELS CONTINUE ON THE SURFACE, THE UNDERCURRENTS IN
CHAD ALL SEEM DIRECTED TOWARDS THE POSSIBLE RESUMPTION
OF HOSTILITIES. GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE HOPES SOMETHING
GOOD WILL COME OUT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT HAS GRAVE
RESERVATIONS REGARDING QADHAFI'S REAL INTENTIONS. THE
IMMEDIATE GOALS OF REBEL LEADER GOUKOUNI REMAINS UNCLEAR
AS IS THE AMOUNT OF CONTROL EXERCISED OVER HIM BY QADHAFI.

1. ON THE NEGOTIATING SIDE, VICE PRESIDENT DJIME AND
MINISTER OF JUSTICE MAHAMOUD ARE STILL IN TRIPOLI. HOWEVER,
WE HAVE BEEN UNOFFICIALLY INFORMED BY DIRECTOR GENERAL IN
FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT THE TALKS THERE DO NOT CONCERN THE
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FRONTIER QUESTION, AND THEREFORE MUST BE VERY GENERAL IN
NATURE. REBEL RADIO HAS CONTINUED VILIFYING MALLOUM
GOVERNMENT AND FRENCH IMPERIALISM; WHILE AT THE SAME TIME
STRESSING THE NEED FOR HBEL UNITY AND CONDEMNING HISEN
HABRE AND ABBA SIDDICK. THE RADIO HAS STATED UNEQUIVOCALLY
THAT THE REBELS, AS REPRESENTED BY GOUKOUNI, WERE NOT
PARTICIPANTS IN THE SEBHA CONFERENCE AND ARE NOT BOUND BY

ITS DECISIONS, ALTHOUGH IT HAS STOPPED SHORT OF SAYING
REBELS WOULD NOT ATTEND MARCH 21 MEETING.

2. ON THE MILITARY SIDE, FRENCH REINFORCEMENT OPERATION
IS CONTINUING (SEPARATE DAO TELEGRAM FOLLOWS WITH STATISTICAL
INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO DATE). THE NATURE OF FRENCH INTER-
VENTION APPEARS TO BE THINLY SPREADING A NUMBER OF TROOPS
ALONG A DEFENSE LINE FROM MAO TO ABECHE IN CONJUNCTION
WITH CHADIAN UNITS. THE HOPED-FOR EFFECT WILL BE TO BOLSTER
THE MORALE OF THE CHADIAN TROOPS, TO INCREASE THEIR EFFECTIVE-
NESS, AND TO ACT AS A TRIP WIRE BY FORCING REBELS TO
ATTACK FRENCH AS WELL AS CHADIANS IF THEY DESIRE TO PROCEED
FURTHER. GOVERNMENT, IN A PARALLEL ACTION, HAS ISSUED ARMS
TO APPROXIMATELY 800 FOLLOWERS OF HISSEN HABRE. RELIABILITY
OF THIS GROUP IS STILL QUESTIONABLE. ON THE REBEL SIDE,
THE EQUIPMENT BUILDUP FROM LIBYA APPARENTLY CONTINUES AND
THE LOGISTICS OF THE REBELS HAVE BEEN STRENGTHENED BY THE
EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES CAPTURED AT FADA, FAYA, AND PROBABLY
KORO TORO. IN ADDITION, LIBYA HAS BEEN FURNISHING MONEY
TO REBELS IN MAIDUGURI, NIGERIA, FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF
DESERTERS FROM THE CHADIAN ARMY TO STRENGTHEN THE ALMOST
NON-EXISTENT THIRD ARMY IN WESTERN CHAD. BRADFORD

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